to eradicate poverty, unemployment and social inequalities among themselves; and

(c) in what manner the cooperation or assistance has been sought for the purpose from developed nations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) The following subjects were discussed at the Fifth G-15 Summit held at Buenos Aires from 5th to 7th November, 1995:

(i) The Challeges of the International Economic Situation, viz., Globalisation and regional Integration; Poverty, Unemployment and Migration; and Financial Flows and External Debt.

(ii) A New Partnership for Development covering the United Nations, the Bretton Woods Institutions, the World Trade Organisation and Food Security.

(iii) Strengthening Cooperation among Developing Countries, including South-South Trade, and Economic Cooperation, specific Cooperative Projects for Inter-Regional Cooperation.

(iv) Terrorism, Drug Trafficking and Corruption.

(b) The Summit exhorted the Developed countries not to undermine employment opportunities in Developing countries by imposition of trade barriers or the restriction of flows of resources to them. The Summit also committed themselves to combating unemployment, poverty and social inequalities with all available resources. It also affirmed that equitable economic growth, based on sound macroeconomic policies, within a more positive international economic framework, industrialisation, human resource development and constructive partnership between Government and business would find lasting solutions to these problems.

(c) The Summit hoped that this new political framework which resulted from the end of the Cold War should contribute to bringing about greater convergence between the developed and the developing countries. The Summit called for increased financial flows in the form of DDA and foreign direct investment from developed to developing countries to accelerate world-wide growth and economic development in the developing countries, and reiterated the demand for cancellation or substantial reduction of the external debt of the least developed and low-income countries. In order to make the common aspirations of the developing countries a reality, the Summit called for a constructive dialogue with the G-7 countries on the necessity of bringing reasonable stability to exchange and interest rates so as to limit the uncertainty and volatility of capital flows which mostly effect developing countries. The Summit emphasised that the macroeconomic policies of industrialised countries should take into account the interest of all countries, in particular developing countries, with a view to creating an environment aimed at global stability, economic growth, enhanced trade, investment and development. The Summit also asserted that the Generalised System of Preferences should be expeditiously reinforced and its coverage widened and deepened.

Prior Clearance from Central Government for Development Projects and Programmes

1658. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:—

(a) whether the State Governments have to take prior clearance for the development projects and programmes from the Central Government under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980;

(b) if so, whether the Central Government propose to provide powers to the State Governments as per the prescribed terms and conditions for undertaking development projects and

programmes to cut short the delay in taking off the projects; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT) (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) After discussing the issue in various fora including the State Forest Minister's Conference held during February, 1992, it was decided to further decentralise and streamline examination of proposals under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. Accordingly, Forest (Conservation) Rules, 1981 have been suitably amended on 21.5.1992 and revised consolidated guidelines for examination of proposals under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 have been issued on 25.10.1992. Revised consolidated guidelines interalia include delegation of powers to Regional Chief Conservator of Forests to finally decide proposals involving diversion of forest land upto 5 ha. excluding proposals in respect of regularisation of encroachments and mining and initial examination of all proposals involving diversion of forest land upto 20 ha.

Funds Donated by Institutions under the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas

1659. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any funds have been donated by the A.S.U./Financial Institutions under the Ministry to any Foundation or Institution connected with late Indira Gandhi and Rajeev Gandhi during the past four years and if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the details of donations made to any other body/voluntary institutions under the Ministry during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH SHARMA): (a) Yes, Sir. ONGC donated a sum of Rs.1 lakh to the Rajiv Gandhi Foundation during 1991-92. A sum of US Dollars 2,500 was also donated by ONGC to the US Chapter of Rajiv Gandhi Foundation, Washington in April, 1995.

(b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Meeting the Demand of Petroleum Products through Domestic Production

1660. SHRI CHIMANBHAI HARIBHAI SHUKLA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the year-wise percentage of the demand regarding Petrol and Petroleum products during the last three years which was met through indigenous production;

(b) what estimates have been reckoned for the year 2001;

(c) whether Government are taking any firm steps for assigning oil producing projects to private sector in order to increase the indigenous production; and

(d) what steps have been taken to preserve the petroleum products in order to meet the country's requirement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH SHARMA): (a) The percentage of demand of petrol and petroleum products met through indigenous production during the last three years was as under:—